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LRB098 14516 MST 49339 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has put forth a
3 comprehensive plan to strengthen the State's public education
4 system and improve student performance; and

5 WHEREAS, The State's education leaders raised standards
6 for students, strengthened teacher and principal evaluation to
7 provide feedback and improve instruction, redesigned school
8 report cards, and intensified efforts to improve struggling
9 schools - all of which pave the way for better outcomes and
10 opportunities for students; and

11 WHEREAS, Four years of cuts to public education in Illinois
12 threaten to derail much-needed improvements and strip away
13 support for student performance; and

14 WHEREAS, When adjusted for inflation, the State of Illinois
15 cut \$1.4 billion from the total K-12 budget from Fiscal Year
16 2009 through Fiscal Year 2013; and

17 WHEREAS, The funding gap continues to widen between what
18 the Education Funding Advisory Board deems necessary and what
19 the General Assembly determines the State will provide; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2012 and 2013, the General Assembly did not

1 appropriate sufficient money to fully fund the statutorily set
2 foundation level of \$6,119, therefore triggering the proration
3 of General State Aid dollars; and

4 WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2012, the State's school districts
5 only received 95% of the foundation level and, in Fiscal Year
6 2013, they received just 89%; and

7 WHEREAS, When the State prorates General State Aid dollars,
8 it disproportionately hurts school districts most dependent on
9 State dollars and causes the highest-poverty districts to lose
10 more than \$500 per student in Fiscal Year 2013, totaling
11 roughly \$160 million; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
14 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we state our disapproval of the
15 prorating of payments to school districts, a budgetary tactic
16 that has a decidedly regressive effect; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we further state our disapproval of the
18 cutting of education funding and recommend the abolishment of
19 the proration of General State Aid dollars, given the undue
20 harm to the neediest school districts; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That, in the event that the State of Illinois

1 does not fund the State Board of Education's budget request, we
2 urge the members of the General Assembly to pass legislation
3 that equitably spreads reductions among school districts by
4 evenly cutting dollars on a per-pupil basis or using another
5 non-regressive approach.